



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, CHICAGO DISTRICT
231 SOUTH LASALLE STREET SUITE 1500
CHICAGO, IL 60604

May 23, 2025

Planning Branch
Planning, Programs and Project Management

Dear Recipient:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chicago District (USACE) has released for public comment the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on the effects associated with a proposed environmental infrastructure project located in the Village of Niles, Cook County, Illinois pursuant to Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, as amended. The purpose of the proposed project is to expand the storm sewer system in the Lawrencewood Gardens and Oasis neighborhoods within the Village of Niles (Enclosure 1).

The Draft EA considers three alternatives to improve storm sewer infrastructure in the area. The recommended plan includes installation of approximately 800 linear feet (LF) of storm sewer ranging from 12 to 54 inches in diameter along North Harlem Avenue (between West Mulford Street and West Harvard Street) and West Mulford Street (between North Harlem Avenue and North Oconto Avenue) to reestablish positive drainage from depressional areas (Enclosure 1). Approximately 200 LF of 30-inch diameter sanitary sewer would be removed and replaced. Approximately 300 LF of existing sanitary sewer pipe would be abandoned in place. Additionally, approximately 800 LF of roadway restoration with curb and gutter rehabilitation would occur in the public road right of way. The storm sewers would be constructed with open cut methods under the roadway, which would reduce impacts to the trees in the parkway.

This would be the third phase of the project. Phase 1, completed in 2019, installed 1,000 LF of 54-inch diameter storm sewer along West Howard Avenue between the North Branch of the Chicago River and North Nordica Avenue. Phase 2 involves installation of 2,800 LF of 54-inch diameter storm sewer pipe between North Nordica Avenue and North Harlem Avenue. The Village of Niles originally planned to use Section 219 funding to complete Phase 2 as outlined in a NEPA scoping letter dated June 6, 2024. Instead, the Village of Niles will use non-federal funds to complete Phase 2 and use Section 219 funding to complete Phase 3.

The 30-day public review period will be held from May 23, 2025 through June 22, 2025. As part of the public review period, USACE would appreciate any comments or concerns associated with any potential effects to environmental and cultural resources of the proposed action. The Draft EA/FONSI is available at:

<https://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/News/Project-Documents-Notices-Public-Review/Category/24681/chicago/>

Comments regarding the proposed action may be submitted via email or mail. Emailed comments should be sent to andrew.j.miller2@usace.army.mil. Mailed comments should be sent to the attention of Mr. Andrew J. Miller (CELRC-PDL-E) at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 231 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1500, Chicago, IL 60604. All comments should be postmarked or emailed by June 22, 2025.

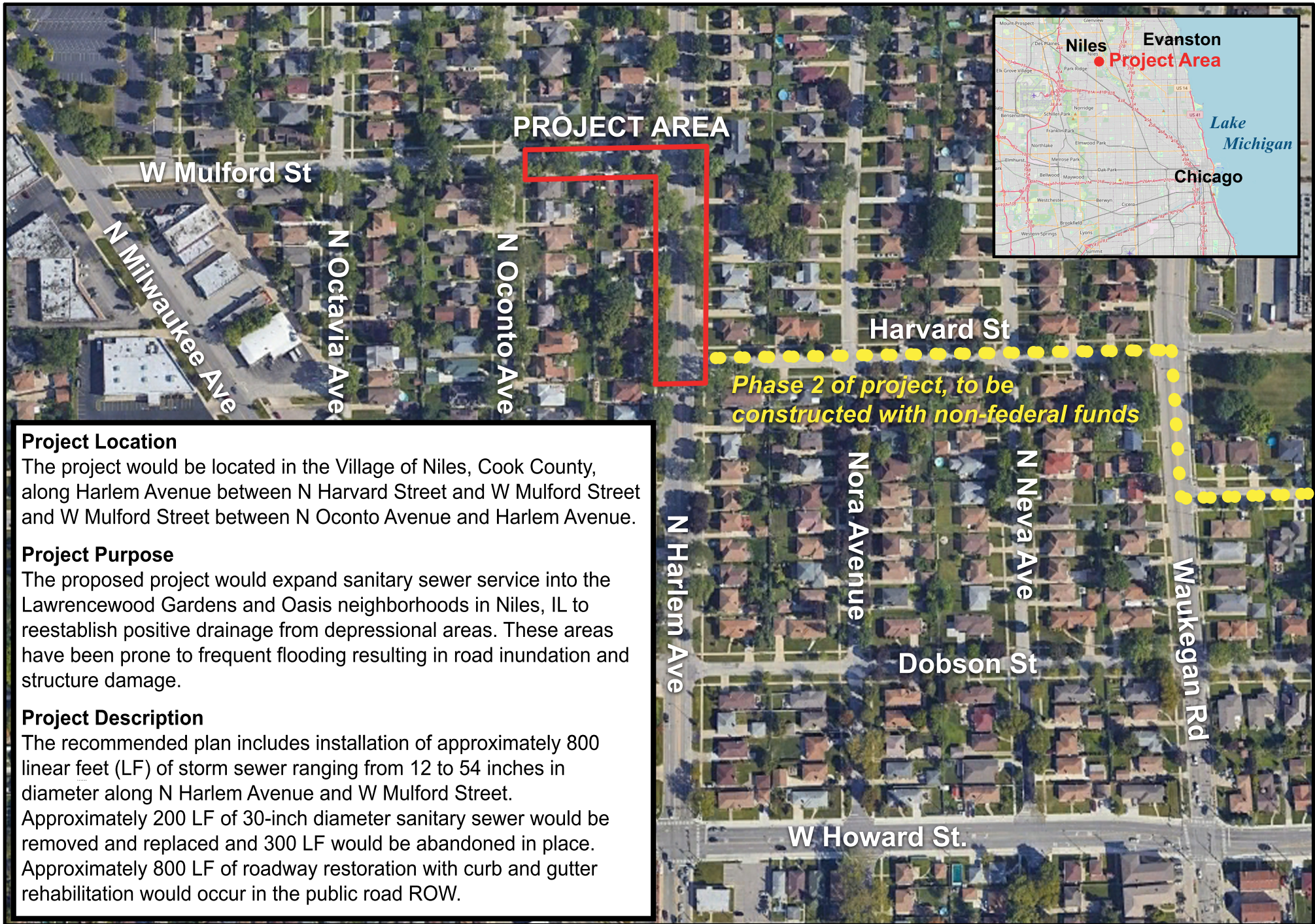
Sincerely,

David F. Bucaro, P.E., PMP, WRCP
Chief, Planning Branch
Chicago District

Enclosures

1 – Project Map

2 – Distribution List



**U.S. Army Corps
Of Engineers®**
Chicago District

Legend
 **Project Area**



0 37.5 75 150 225 300
Feet

**Village of Niles Stormwater
Improvement Project - Phase 3**

----- Federal Agencies -----

Mr. Bobb A. Beauchamp

Federal Aviation Administration
Chicago Airports District Office, CHI-ADO-600
bobb.beauchamp@faa.gov

Ms. Deb Bartell

Federal Aviation Administration
deb.bartell@faa.gov

Mr. Johnathan Walls

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
Johnathan.Walls@usda.gov

Mr. Shawn Cirton

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chicago Field Office
shawn_cirton@fws.gov

Mr. Kraig McPeck

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chicago Field Office
kraig_mcpeek@fws.gov

Elizabeth Pelloso

NEPA Implementation Section USEPA, Region 5
Pelloso.Elizabeth@epa.gov

USEPA

Region 5
R5NEPA@epa.gov

----- Federal Elected Officials -----

Senator Tammy Duckworth

U.S. Senate
Lizzy_Olsen@duckworth.senate.gov
Loren_Harris@duckworth.senate.gov

Senator Dick Durbin

U.S. Senate
clarisol_duque@durbin.senate.gov
Alyssa_Fisher@durbin.senate.gov

Representative Jan Schakowsky

U.S. House of Representatives
Jan.schakowsky@house.mail.gov

----- State Agencies -----

Director Natalie Phelps Finnie

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
natalie.finnie@illinois.gov

Mr. Bradley Hayes

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Office of Realty and Environmental Planning
Bradley.Hayes@illinois.gov

Mr. Loren Wobig

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Office of Water Resources
loren.wobig@illinois.gov

Director John J. Kim

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
john.j.kim@illinois.gov

Mr. James Jennings

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
james.m.jennings@illinois.gov

----- State Elected Officials -----

Governor J.B. Pritzker

Office of the Governor
governor@state.il.us
nancy.huynh@illinois.gov

Senator Ram Villivalam

Illinois General Assembly
senator@senatorram.com

Representative Michael J. Kelly

Illinois General Assembly
district@repkelly.com

----- Local Agencies -----

Mr. Toni Dati

Village of Niles - Department of Public Works
aad@vniles.com

Mr. Ronnie Strzelecki

Village of Niles - Department of Public Works
rjs@vniles.com

Mr. Joseph La Margo
Village of Niles - Administration
manager@vniles.com

Ms. Valerie Marshall
Niles-Maine District Library
vmarshal@nileslibrary.org

----- Local Elected Officials -----

Commissioner Josina Morita
Cook County Board of Commissioners
Josina.Morita@cookcountyil.gov

Commissioner Samantha Steele
Cook County Board of Review
BORDistrict2@info.cookcountyil.gov

Mayor George D. Alpogianis
Village of Niles
Mayor@vniles.com

Ms. Danette O'Donovan Matyas
Village of Niles Board of Trustees
Public Works Committee
dom@vniles.com

----- Tribal Nations -----

The Honorable John Barrett, Chairman
Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Oklahoma
jbarrett@potawatomi.org

Mr. Blake Norton
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
cpnthpo@potawatomi.org

The Honorable James Crawford, Chairman
Forest County Potawatomi
Community of Wisconsin
james.crawford@fcp-nsn.gov

Ms. Olivia Nunway
Assistant Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Olivia.Nunway@fcp-nsn.gov

The Honorable Kenneth Meshigaud, Chairperson
Hannahville Indian Community, Michigan
tyderyien@hannahville.org

The Honorable Darwin Kaskaske, Chairman
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
darwin.kaskaske@okkt.net

Ms. Pam Wesley
NAGPRA Representative
pamwesley@kickapootribeofoklahoma.com

The Honorable Regina Gasco-Bentley, Chairperson
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians of Michigan
tribalchair@ltbbodawa-nsn.gov

Ms. Melissa Wiatroluk
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
MWiatroluk@LTBBODAWA-NSN.GOV

The Honorable Gena Kakkak, Chairman
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
chairman@mitw.org

Mr. David Grignon
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
dgrignon@mitw.org
mitwadmin@mitw.org

The Honorable Douglas Lankford, Chief
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
dlankford@miamination.com

Mr. Logan York
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
THPO@MiamiNation.com

The Honorable Joseph Rupnick, Chairperson
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
josephrupnick@pbnation.org

Ms. Tara Mitchell
Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
taramitchell@pbnation.org

Mr. Raphael Wahwassuck
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
raphaelwahwassuck@pbnation.org